

Oatlands Historic District
Bachelor Cottage
U. S. rt. 15
Leesburg vicinity
Loudoun County
Virginia

HABS No. VA-949-B

HABS
VA
54-LEEB.V
4B-

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Reduced Copies of Architect Drawings

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

HABS
VA
54-LEEB.V,
4B-

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

OATLANDS HISTORIC DISTRICT, BACHELOR COTTAGE

HABS No. VA-949-B

Location: U.S. Route 15, Leesburg vicinity, Loudoun County, Virginia

Present Owner: The National Trust for Historic Preservation
1785 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20036

Present Use: Unoccupied and unused

Significance: This small building is one of the outbuildings of the Oatlands complex, immediately adjacent to the main house and compositionally related to it.

ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Although this small dependency appears to have been radically altered, its importance lies in its compositional relationship in siting with the main house and the Studio east of the house. The south wall of both of these dependencies is approximately aligned with the north wall of the Main House. The exterior appearance of this structure originally was, in all probability, similar to that of the Studio and today bears some basic relationships to it. The building is in poor condition.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: 18'-11" x 25'-2-1/4", including the porch which was added.
2. Layout, shape: Approximately square, excluding the entry porch which is an obvious addition.
3. Wall construction and finish: Rubble stone (sandstone and slate), exposed at the west rear and capped by a water table of two projecting brick courses. The exposed brick bearing wall is 18" thick, except at the corners where brick piers, 4'-8" wide, are 16" thick. A continuous 2" x 8" wood member, laid flat, has been incorporated in the brick coursing approximately 2'-6" below the point where the raking eave meets the corners of the piers. Only a trace of this wood member occurs on the west wall. The common bond of the brick coursing, with headers every sixth course, differs from the Studio where the headers are every fourth course. The wood course was undoubtedly a nailer for a moulded wood string course, similar to that existing in the Studio. Dark green clapboards have been installed above this wood course in the north and south gable walls.

4. Structural system, framing: The brick bearing walls are in combination with wood floor and roof framing. In the basement, the first floor wood joists are shored at each end with steel H-columns and 4" x 8" timber girders approximately 7" from the basement walls.
5. Porches, stoops, bulkheads: The two-story porch on the east front is screened and surrounded by a wooden balustrade. Behind this balustrade, wood partitions enclose modern bath facilities on the south end of the first floor and the north end of the second floor. A straight flight of stairs leads from the second-story porch down to grade on the south. A wood stoop with three risers leads from the porch up to the bedroom on the second floor. On the west, there is a concrete bulkhead with concrete steps down to the basement. It has a wooden hatch cover.
6. Chimneys: A single brick chimney is incorporated within the pier on the southeast corner.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The entrance door on the first floor is tongue-and-groove boards, framed with simple wood trim within a brick reveal. The second floor entrance door from the porch is wood with six recessed panels. Trim is similar to that on the first floor.
 - b. Windows and shutters: There is no uniformity in the windows. Possibly the only two original openings are the wood-framed louvers occurring in the piers of the north wall at the second floor. They have been sealed on the interior. They have flat arch brick lintels similar to the openings in the Studio. On the first floor north and south walls, the double-hung windows have six-over-six-lights. In the west wall, the window has six-over-three-lights. Louvered shutters occur at the north and south walls only.

On the second floor west wall there is an outswinging wood casement window. On the north wall and the wood partition of the south wall are side-hinged wood casements. Also located in the brick wall on the south are two small wood double-hung windows with three-over-three-lights and a double-hung window with six-over-six-lights.
8. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: The gabled roof is covered with wood shingles.

b. Cornice: Flat 3" board with 1-1/2" crown mould.

c. Eaves: 6-1/2" overhang.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

a. First floor: Between the screened entrance porch on the east and the single rectangular room on the west is a small entrance hall. It opens on the north to the enclosed stairway and on the south through a door to the water-closet. In the water-closet a plastered opening has been cut through the 19" bearing wall to the new bathroom.

b. Second floor: A doorway at the top of the stairs leads directly into a bedroom with built-in closets. The door on the east leads to the screened porch and the wood-framed water-closet at the north end.

2. Stairways: An ell-shaped enclosed wood stairway with 13 risers is located in the northeast corner of the original structure.

3. Flooring: Dark stained wood floors of uniform width on the first floor and random width on the second floor.

4. Walls and ceiling finish: All exterior walls on both floors are plastered, except the north and south walls on the second floor--which are covered with composition board. All interior partitions and the ceiling of the first floor are tongue-and-grooved boards. The ceiling on the second floor is composition board. All surfaces are painted light green except for the white trim on the second floor.

5. Doorways and doors: On the east wall of the first floor is a wooden door with four recessed panels and flat trim. The door to the water-closet is vertical beaded boards. On the second floor, the door to the porch is wooden with six recessed panels and moulded trim. Stair and closet doors are four-paneled wood with glazed upper panels.

6. Decorative features, hardware: None.

7. Mechanical equipment: Electricity and plumbing have been installed.

PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken through joint efforts and financing between HABS and the National Trust. Of particular value was the advice and cooperation of E. Blaine Cliver, Historical Architect, and Thomas M. Slade, Architectural Historian, both of the National Trust. This report was prepared by Woodrow W. Wilkins, A.I.A., Supervisory Architect, HABS Oatlands project, during the summer of 1973.